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<b>GAME</b>	<b>DEVICE</b>	AND INFO	DRMATION	STORAGE	MEDIUM
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Patent Number?

JP11300046

Publication date:

1999-11-02

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Applicant(s):

NAMCO LTD

Requested Patent:

□ JP11300046

Application Number: JP19980126823 19980421

Priority Number(s):

IPC Classification:

A63F9/22

EC Classification:

Equivalents:

#### **Abstract**

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To make enjoyable cooperative plays in a team battle by providing a means delivering gained points among a plurality of game characters and making it possible to mutually deliver gained points among one character and other characters when one character has lost its gained points.

SOLUTION: In a plurality of independent game devices 10 (10-1 to 10-6) connected to each other in a looped manner for instance so that data are transmissible/receivable among other game devices through transmission lines 12, when a team is composed of a plurality of game characters to battle with another team, the positional coordinates of respective characters and the figure of gained points are received from other game devices 10 through I/O ports by a communication controller. When processing the delivery of the gained points, the position of teammates are obtained on the basis of the received data from the other game devices 10 and a distance from a playing character is computed. When the distance from the teammates is within a specified range, it is made possible that gained points are delivered or received.

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### PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number:

11-300046

(43) Date of publication of application: 02.11.1999

(51)Int.CI.

A63F 9/22

(21)Application number : 10-126823

(71)Applicant : NAMCO LTD

(22)Date of filing:

21.04.1998

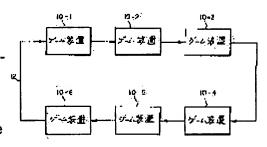
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#### (54) GAME DEVICE AND INFORMATION STORAGE MEDIUM

#### (57) Abstract:

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from the other game devices 10 and a distance from a playing character is computed. When the distance from the teammates is within a specified range, it is made possible that gained points are delivered or received.

#### **LEGAL STATUS**

[Date of request for examination]

28.12.2000

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

Searching PAJ

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

3374074

[Date of registration]

22.11.2002

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of

rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's

decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]

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#### CLAIMS

#### [Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The aforementioned game character has based on game operation of the game character which is game equipment which performs the game which makes a team and plays a match against other teams, and a player operates, and two or more game characters calculate and have a point. A point operation means, Have and a point delivery means is included. between two or more game characters -- it has and delivery processing of a point is performed -- After having the account of before, and a game character's having [ a point delivery means ] and losing a point, other game characters belonging to the same team as the game character concerned the account of before when it has and has the point Game equipment characterized by for the game character concerned and other game characters having, and performing delivery processing of a point.

[Claim 2] Game equipment characterized by having and performing delivery processing of a point so that it may have the account of before, a point delivery means may have among two or more game characters in a claim 1 and a point may be equalized.

[Claim 3] Game equipment characterized by having the account of before, for a point delivery means having in a claim 1 or 2 when two or more game characters approach the predetermined range, and performing delivery processing of a point.

[Claim 4] Game equipment characterized by including a means to restrict game operation of the game character concerned when a game character has the account of before and a point is lost in a claim 1 or either of 3. [Claim 5] Game equipment characterized by having the account of before in a claim 1 or either of 4 including the means of communications which transmits and receives other game equipment and game information through a communication line, and for other game characters belonging to the same team as the game character concerned having the account of before based on the game information which the aforementioned means of communications received [ the point delivery means ], and judging a point. [Claim 6] The information-storage medium for performing the game which two or more game characters make a team, and plays a match against other teams characterized by providing the following. The first information for the aforementioned game character having based on game operation of the game character which a player operates, and calculating a point. Information for the game character concerned and other game characters having, and performing delivery processing of a point, when other game characters belonging to the same team as the game character concerned have the account of before and it has the point, after a game character has [ the second information of the above ] including the second information for I between two or more game characters ] having and performing delivery processing of a point and a point is lost.

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#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

#### [0001]

[The technical field to which invention belongs] this invention relates to the game equipment and the information-storage medium which perform the game which two or more game characters make a team, and plays a match against other teams.

#### [0002]

Background Art and Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] Before, the game equipment which performs the game which makes a team and plays a match against other teams is developed, and two or more game characters are put in practical use. For example, two or more game equipments are connected by the communication line, and there are some which operate a virtual player, a racing car, etc. each player of whose is the game character of self, and enjoy a waging-war game.

[0003] If physical strength, energy, a life, the number of machines, etc. usually have in each game character on the occasion of a game start, a point is given, it has whenever a game character receives a damage, and a point decreases and has and a point is lost, the player consists of game equipment to apply so that it may become game over.

[0004] Two or more game characters can have a team in the game constructed and pitched against each other in recent years, the game equipment which can deliver a point can be developed, and a cooperation play can be enjoyed now between players in this game equipment.

[0005] however, it has the account of before and a point can be delivered -- one's game character -- only -- also coming out -- if it is restricted when it has and the point remains, and its game character has and a point is lost, a life and the one number of machines will lose at the time -- having (one mistake) -- it had become game over [0006] Thus, although it is a team game, if its game character had and a point was lost, since he would become game over or it would become one mistake, how to fight of sacrificing oneself conventionally for the whole team was not able to be done. For this reason, even if it had in the game even if and delivery of a point was possible, priority was given to self having each player and saving a point rather than the thing of the whole team, and the range of a cooperation play was limited. Therefore, in spite of having been a team game game, the player could enjoy neither tactics peculiar to a team game, nor a cooperation play more, but had the trouble that a sense of togetherness could not be easily born between players.

[0007] this invention is made in view of the above technical problems, and the place made into the purpose is to offer the game equipment and the information-storage medium which can enjoy tactics peculiar to a team game, a cooperation play, etc.

#### [8000]

[Means for Solving the Problem] this invention is game equipment which performs the game which two or more game characters make a team, and plays a match against other teams. The aforementioned game character has based on game operation of the game character which a player operates, and it calculates and has a point. A point operation means, Have and a point delivery means is included. between two or more game characters -- it has and

delivery processing of a point is performed -- After having the account of before, and a game character's having [ a point delivery means ] and losing a point, other game characters belonging to the same team as the game character concerned the account of before when it has and has the point It is characterized by for the game character concerned and other game characters having, and performing delivery processing of a point.

[0009] In here, the person character which a player etc. operates is sufficient as a game character, and a racing car, a tank, etc. which a player etc. operates are included.

[0010] Moreover, a point is given to each game character on the occasion of a game start, it has, whenever a game character receives a damage, it decreases, and if the value is generally lost, the player means the value on the game which has a property which becomes game over. For example, physical strength, energy, a life, the number of machines, etc. have, and it is contained in a point.

[0011] Moreover, when it has although the case where had, usually had that a point is lost and a point was set to 0 was said, and the case where have and a point becomes a predetermined value in being a value on the game which has a property which becomes game over, when a point becomes a predetermined value has and a point is lost, it corresponds.

[0012] In addition, it is [ performing / have / when it has and a point becomes a predetermined value, in being a value on the game which has a property which becomes game over, have the account of before, and / a point delivery means / other game characters which belong to the same team as the game character concerned after a game character has and a point becomes a predetermined value have the account of before, and / when a point is not a predetermined value ]-delivery processing of point / desirable.

[0013] Moreover, by connecting two or more game equipments by the communication line etc., the game equipment with which the multi-player game was formed possible is sufficient as the game equipment of this invention, and the game equipment in which the multi-player game is formed possible by one set of game equipment is sufficient as it. Moreover, when playing a match against the game character which a computer operates in a single handicap player game, it contains. Therefore, the game character which other players operate is sufficient as other game characters (henceforth a teammate) belonging to the same team, and the game character which a computer operates is sufficient as them.

[0014] Only the player concerned becomes game over, when the game character of a player has this usual kind of game equipment and a point is lost. However, if a teammate has and it has the point after according to this invention a game character has and a point is lost, it can have the game character concerned from the aforementioned teammate, and it can receive a point.

[0015] thus -- even if the game character of self has and a point is lost -- a game -- since it does not become exaggerated, a player becomes possible [ how to fight of sacrificing oneself for the whole team ] Therefore, the game equipment which can enjoy tactics peculiar to a team game, a cooperation play, etc. can be offered. Furthermore, it becomes possible to raise more the sense of togetherness of the player which constructs and plays a team, and to raise the degree of devotion to the game of a player, and the degree of enthusiasm.

[0016] Moreover, this invention is characterized by having and performing delivery processing of a point so that it may have the account of before, a point delivery means may have among two or more game characters and a point may be equalized.

[0017] By doing in this way, it can have in an easy and form intelligible for a player, and delivery of a point can be realized.

[0018] Moreover, this invention is characterized by having the account of before, for a point delivery means having, when two or more game characters approach the predetermined range, and performing delivery processing of a point.

[0019] By doing in this way, a player can have the game character of self with the easy rule of bringing close to a teammate, and a point can deliver it, and it can be performed. For this reason, it is intelligible also for an inexperienced personnel in a game, and the game equipment which a beginner can also enjoy can be offered.

[0020] Moreover, this invention is characterized by including a means to restrict game operation of the game

character concerned, when a game character has the account of before and a point is lost.

[0021] change into the state where set restricting game operation in here in the state which cannot be attacked, or only movement with a slow game character is made, or move about freely -- a case so that it may change into the state where there is nothing is included

[0022] A penalty can be imposed on the player whose point had and was lost by doing in this way.

[0023] Moreover, this invention is characterized by having the account of before, and for other game characters belonging to the same team as the game character concerned having the account of before based on the game information which the aforementioned means of communications received [ the point delivery means ] including the means of communications which transmits and receives other game equipment and game information through a communication line, and judging a point.

[0024] According to this invention, each game equipment can acquire the game information on other game equipments on real time with communication data. Therefore, also in the multi-player game performed by connecting two or more game equipments, data can be delivered to real time among other game characters through means of communications.

[0025] In addition, the composition that it has individually, and each game equipment connected through the communication line has a point delivery means, has individually, and processes delivery of a point may be used. Moreover, one of game equipments serves as a master machine, for example, and the game equipment concerned may have, it may have a point delivery means, and the composition which was received from the master machine and which it has, and a game character has based on a point, and updates a point is sufficient as other game equipments.

[0026] Moreover, this invention is an information-storage medium for performing the game which two or more game characters make a team, and plays a match against other teams. The first information for the aforementioned game character having based on game operation of the game character which a player operates, and calculating a point, The second information for [ between two or more game characters ] having and performing delivery processing of a point is included. After a game character has [ the second information of the above ] and a point is lost, other game characters belonging to the same team as the game character concerned the account of before when it has and has the point It is characterized by for the game character concerned and other game characters having, and performing delivery processing of a point.

#### [0027]

[Embodiments of the Invention] Hereafter, the suitable operation gestalt of this invention is explained using a drawing. In addition, although explained below taking the case of the game which two or more game characters make a team, and plays a match against other teams, if it is the game of a type pitched against each other by constructing a team, it will not be restricted to this.

[0028] 1. An example of connection between game equipment is shown in the connection diagram 1 between game equipment.

[0029] With this operation gestalt, the game equipment 10-1 with which plurality became independent, 10-2, 10-3, 10-4, 10-5, and 10-6 are connected for example, in the shape of a loop. And data are transmitted [ each of game equipment 10-1 to 10-6] and received among other game equipments through a transmission line 12. With this operation gestalt, data are transmitted so that it may turn around a transmission line 12 in the direction of the circumference of a clock.

[0030] In addition, respectively, game equipment 10-1 to 10-6 is independently constituted so that a single handicap player type game can be played.

[0031] 2. An example of the functional block diagram of game equipment is shown in the <u>block diagram</u> 2 of game equipment.

[0032] A control unit 120 is for a player inputting operation data, and can realize the function by hardware, such as a lever, a button, a gun, a steering, an accelerator, and a brake.

[0033] The information-storage medium 130 stores the information on a program, data, etc., and can realize the

function by hardware, such as ROM, CDROM, a hard disk, a game cassette, an IC card, and MO, FD, DVD. The various information (information for restricting operation of the information for transmitting and receiving data, the information for having and calculating a point, the information for having and delivering a point, and a game character etc.) for realizing this operation gestalt will be stored in this information-storage medium 130. In addition, the information stored in the information-storage medium 130 contains at least one, such as the program code for processing this operation gestalt, image information, sound information, configuration information on a display object, table data, list data, and player information.

[0034] The processing section 140 performs various kinds of processings, such as control of the whole game equipment, directions of the instruction to each block in game equipment, and a game operation, and can realize the function by hardware, such as CPU (a CISC type, RISC type) and ASIC (gate array etc.). The processing section 140 operates here based on the operation data of the player inputted through I/O Port 124 from a control unit 120, the program from the information-storage medium 130, data, etc. Moreover, the processing section 140 performs various kinds of processings by making work memory 158 into a work field.

[0035] the processing section 140 -- the transceiver processing section 142 -- having -- the point operation part 143 -- it has and the point delivery section 144 and the limit section 145 of operation are included

[0036] Here, the transceiver processing section 142 performs processing for performing transmission and reception of other game equipments and data. For example, it processes writing transmit data in buffer memory 180, reading received data from buffer memory 180 to it, or taking out the various directions for transmission and reception to it to the communications control section 170 etc.

[0037] Moreover, it has, and the game character which operates based on the input of a player has the point operation part 143, and it calculates a point.

[0038] moreover -- having -- between the game characters of plurality [section/point delivery/144] -- it has and delivery processing of a point is performed in this case, it has and receipt of a point is performed based on other game character \*\*\*\*\*\* contained in the data received from other game equipments.

[0039] The limit section 145 of operation performs processing for a game character having the account of before, and restricting game operation of the game character concerned, when a point is 0.

[0040] The work memory 158 serves as working areas, such as the processing section 140, the picture generation section 160, the sound generation section 164, and the communications control section 170, and can realize the function by hardware, such as RAM.

[0041] According to the directions from the processing section 140 etc., the picture generation section 160 generates various kinds of pictures, outputs them to a display 162, and can realize the function by the hardware and the given programs (picture generator) for [ASIC, CPU, and DSP] picture generation etc.

[0042] According to the directions from the processing section 140 etc., the sound generation section 164 generates various kinds of sound, outputs it to the sound output section 166, and can realize the function by the hardware and the given programs (sound generator) for [ASIC, CPU, and DSP] sound generation etc.

[0043] The communications control section 170 performs various kinds of control for communication, and can realize the function by the hardware and the given programs (communications program) for [ASIC and CPU] communication etc.

[0044] Buffer memory 180 memorizes received data and transmit data temporarily, and can realize the function by hardware, such as RAM. Buffer memory 180 has the area 182 only for transmission, and the transceiver area 184 here.

[0045] The received data from the game equipment of the preceding paragraph are written in the transceiver area 184 through I/O Port 172 and the communications control section 170. And when these received data are unnecessary to the game equipment concerned, it is transmitted to latter game equipment through the communications control section 170 and I/O Port 172 as it is from the transceiver area 182. On the other hand, when required, these received data are read by the processing section 140, and are written in the work memory 158. And after given processing is performed by processing section 140 grade, it is written in the area 182 only for

transmission as transmit data, and is transmitted to latter game equipment through the communications control section 170 and 1/O Port 172.

[0046] 3. When other game characters belonging to the same team have the account of before and a point is not by o after the game character (henceforth a player character) of a player has and a point is set to 0, a player character has the feature of this operation gestalt, now the 1st feature of this operation gestalt in the point which has with other game characters and can perform delivery of a point.

[0047] Only the player concerned becomes game over, when a player character has this usual kind of game equipment and a point is set to 0. However, if a teammate has and it has the point after according to this invention a player character has and a point is set to 0, it can have a player character from the aforementioned teammate, and it can receive a point.

[0048] Therefore, how to fight of sacrificing oneself for the whole team becomes possible, and the game equipment which can enjoy tactics peculiar to a team game, a cooperation play, etc. can be offered.

[0049] For this reason, it becomes possible to induce a sense of togetherness between the players which perform a waging-war play and a joint play. Consequently, it becomes possible to raise the degree of devotion to the game of a player, and the degree of enthusiasm.

[0050] The 2nd feature of this operation gestalt is in the point that have and delivery of a point is performed so that it may have among two or more game characters and a point may be equalized.

[0051] <u>Drawing 3</u> (A) and (B) are drawings showing the game screen of the gestalt of this operation. <u>Drawing 3</u> (A) has and expresses the screen before delivery of a point, and <u>drawing 3</u> (B) has and is a screen after delivery of a point.

[0052] In drawing 3 (A), the game character P1 of the player of the game equipment concerned has 210, and it shows the point, and the game character P2 which is the teammate of P1 has 212, and it shows the point. For example, supposing it has and the game character P1 has before delivery of a point, a point 210 is 0, the game character P2 has and a point 212 is 10, it has and the game character P1 and the game character P2 have after delivery of a point, and a point will be equalized and will be set to 5, respectively.

[0053] By doing in this way, it can have in an easy and form intelligible for a player, and delivery of a point can be realized.

[0054] Moreover, the 3rd feature of the gestalt of this operation is in the point of having when the predetermined range is approached, as two or more game characters show <u>drawing 3</u> (A), and performing delivery processing of a point.

[0055] With the gestalt of this operation, it has, and the point operation part 143 acquires a player character and a teammate's position, and finds the distance between each game character. And if the aforementioned distance is predetermined within the limits, it will have and delivery processing of a point will be performed.

[0056] By doing in this way, a player can have a player character with the easy rule of bringing close to a teammate, and can deliver a point. For this reason, it is intelligible also for an inexperienced personnel in a game, and the game equipment which even an upper person can enjoy from a beginner can be offered.

[0057] Moreover, a game character has the 4th feature of the gestalt of this operation the account of before, and the aforementioned limit section 145 of operation has it in the point of restricting game operation of the game character concerned, when a point is 0.

[0058] With the gestalt of this operation, as shown in  $\frac{drawing 3}{drawing 3}$  (A), it has, and a point can perform only movement to which the game character P1 of 0 rolls the ground, but is in the state where an enemy cannot be attacked, either.

[0059] A penalty can be imposed on the player from which it had and the point was set to 0 by doing in this way. however, the thing for which a player character rolls the ground and a teammate is approached -- or it can have from a teammate because a teammate approaches a player character, and a point can be received, and it can revive in the state in which the usual operation is possible

[0060] 4. operation of this operation gestalt -- explain the detailed example of operation of this operation gestalt

below using the flow chart of drawing 4

[0061] This flow chart expresses the processing for every interchange. In addition, although the portion into which this flow chart transmits and receives data is not specified, through I/O Port 172, from other game equipments, it has and the communications control section 170 makes a point the position coordinate of each game character, and the thing which has received for every interchange.

[0062] With the gestalt of this operation, processing from Step S20 to Step S90 is repeated until it becomes game over (Step S10).

[0063] It detects first that it is game over by S40 from Step S20. That is, a player character has and it detects whether a point is 0 (Step S20). It has, and if a point is not 0, it will not become game over but Step S50 to the step S90 will be processed.

[0064] A teammate has based on the data which it had, and were received from other game equipments when the point was 0, and it detects whether a point is 0 (Step S30). A teammate has, and when a point is 0, it becomes game over there. In addition, when one person also had when there were two or more team mates, it does not become game over when a point is not 0, but all teammates have and a point is set to 0, all the members' teams concerned serve as game over.

[0065] Next, it has at Steps S50 and S60, and processing for delivery of a point is performed. A teammate's position is acquired based on the data first received from other game equipments, and distance with a player character is calculated. And when distance with a teammate is less than fixed distance, it has and delivery processing of a point is performed (Steps S50 and S60).

[0066] Based on the data received from other game equipments, a teammate specifically has, a point is acquired, a player character has, and equalization with a point is performed. And the value of a player character is updated with the equalized value.

[0067] Next, processing for a limit of a player character of operation is performed at Steps S70-S90. A player character has, if a point is 0, a limit of the player character concerned of operation will be performed (Steps S70 and S90), a player character has, and if a point is not 0, the player character concerned will perform normal operation (Steps S70 and S80).

[0068] The limit flag of operation with which it specifically expresses whether a limit of operation is performed corresponding to a game character is formed, in performing a limit of operation, it turns ON the limit flag of the game character concerned of operation, and in carrying out normal operation, it carries out the limit flag of the game character concerned of operation to OFF. And composition which controls operation of a game character by the program side which controls operation based on this limit flag of operation can be considered.

[0069] In addition, what [not only] was explained with the above-mentioned operation gestalt but various deformation implementation is possible for this invention.

[0070] With the gestalt of this operation, although explained taking the case of the case where a point is set to 0 with the case where had and a point is lost, it is not restricted to this. For example, when it has, a point becomes a predetermined value and it is a value on the game which has a property which becomes game over, the case where have and a point becomes a predetermined value is sufficient as the case where had and a point is lost.

[0071] With the gestalt of this operation, although it explained taking the case of the case where delivery is performed so that it might have between each player and a point might equalize, it is not restricted to this. For example, you may enable it for an operation input etc. to determine the amount of delivery freely. Moreover, you may perform delivery with which it has between players and which a point replaces.

[0072] Moreover, it has before delivery, and it is not necessary to deliver with the sum total of a point, back does not need to have, and the sum total of a point does not need to become equal. That is, the case where a team has, and the sum total of a point increases or decreases is sufficient by having and delivering a point.

[0073] Moreover, with the gestalt of this operation, although explained taking the case of the case where have when each player approaches the predetermined range, and delivery processing of a point is performed, it is not restricted to this. For example, a case so that it may have with a teammate and delivery of a point can be performed is

sufficient by acquiring a specific item or arriving at a specific place.

[0074] Moreover, a case so that it may have automatically between game characters and delivery of a point may be performed is sufficient by carrying out predetermined-time progress.

[0075] Moreover, with the gestalt of this operation, although explained taking the case of the case where have between the game characters of two bodies and delivery of a point is performed, it is not restricted to this. For example, the case where have between the game characters of three or more bodies, and delivery of a point is performed is sufficient.

[0076] Moreover, with the gestalt of this operation, although explained taking the case of the game character of a human body model, it is not restricted to this. For example, a racing car etc. may become a game character, when constructing a team and performing a racing game.

[0077] Moreover, it does not require that the player is operating the total game character which appears in a game, either. For example, when a participating player is three or less persons in the multi-player game which can be pitched against each other by 2 to 2, a computer will operate the game character in which a corresponding player is not. That is, as shown in <u>drawing 5</u> (A), P1, P2, and P3 are game characters operated by the player, and C1 becomes the game character which a computer operates. In this case, such a case is sufficient although the teammate of P1 will become the game character C1 which a computer operates supposing P1, and C1, P2 and P3 play a match by becoming a team.

[0078] Furthermore, as shown in <u>drawing 5</u> (B), the case where the player is performing the single handicap player game in it when only one person has participated in the multi-player game which can be pitched against each other with the above 2 to 2 is sufficient. That is, in <u>drawing 5</u> (B), a case as been the game character which a computer operates and been the game character which a player operates only in P1 is sufficient as C1, C2, and C3. [0079] Moreover, although the gestalt of this operation explained taking the case of the case where each game equipment which constitutes a game system has individually, and delivery processing of a point is being performed, it is not restricted to this. For example, composition which one of game equipments serves as a master machine at the beginning, the master machine concerned has, delivery processing of a point is performed, it points to the result to other game equipments, and each game character has other game equipments according to directions of a master machine, and updates a point may be used.

[0080] For example, the topology of the game equipment in this invention is not restricted to the ring type shown in <u>drawing 1</u>. For example, also in the case of a bus type as shown in a star type as shown in <u>drawing 6</u> (A), or <u>drawing 6</u> (B) etc., this invention is applicable. You may make it give transmission and reception of data, and the information-storage medium which has and includes the information for delivery processing of a point etc. to a master (host).

[0081] Moreover, what [ not only ] also shows the composition of the game equipment of this invention to <u>drawing</u> 2 but various deformation implementation is possible.

[0082] Moreover, this invention can be applied to the game pitched against each other by two or more game characters making a team, for example, can be applied to a shooting game, a racing game, a sport game, etc. [0083] Moreover, this invention is applicable to various game equipments, such as a system substrate which generates home video game equipment, business-use game equipment, a simulator, the large-sized attraction equipment with which many players participate, a personal computer, a multimedia terminal, and a game picture. [0084]

[Translation done.]

#### \* NOTICES \*

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- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

#### DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

#### [Brief Description of the Drawings]

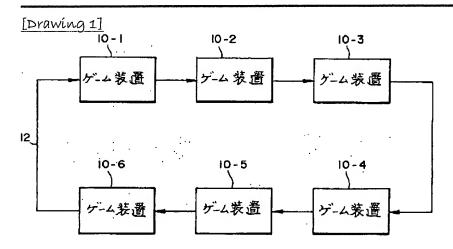
- [Drawing 1] It is drawing showing an example of the topology of the game equipment of this operation gestalt.
- [Drawing 2] It is an example of the functional block diagram of the game equipment of this operation gestalt.
- [Drawing 3] Drawing 3 (A) and (B) are drawings showing the game screen of the gestalt of this operation.
- [Drawing 4] It is a flow chart for explaining the detailed example of processing of this operation gestalt.
- [Drawing 5] Drawing 5 (A) and (B) are drawings for explaining the gestalt of the team of the gestalt of this operation.
- [Drawing 6] Drawing 6 (A) and (B) are drawings showing the example of the various topologies of game equipment.
- [Description of Notations]
- 10-1 to 10-6 Game equipment
- 12 Transmission Line
- 120 Control Unit
- 124 1/0 Port
- 130 Information-Storage Medium
- 140 Processing Section
- 142 Transceiver Processing Section
- 143 It Has and is Point Operation Part.
- 144 It Has and is Point Delivery Section.
- 145 Limit Section of Operation
- 158 Work Memory
- 160 Picture Generation Section
- 162 Display
- 164 Sound Generation Section
- 166 Sound Output Section
- 170 Communications Control Section
- 172 1/0 Port
- 180 Buffer Memory
- 182 Area Only for Transmission
- 184 Transceiver Area

#### [Translation done.]

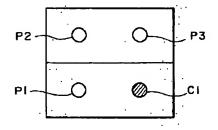
## Japan Patent Office is not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

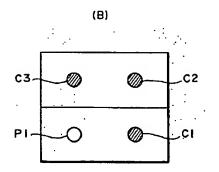
- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
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- 3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

#### DRAWINGS

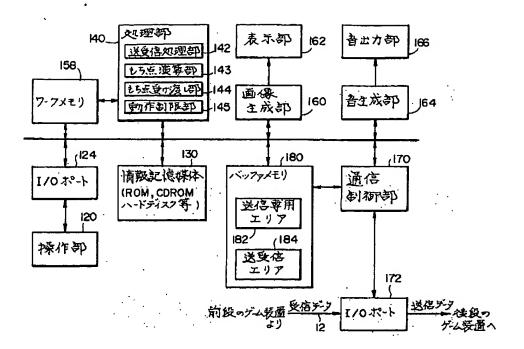


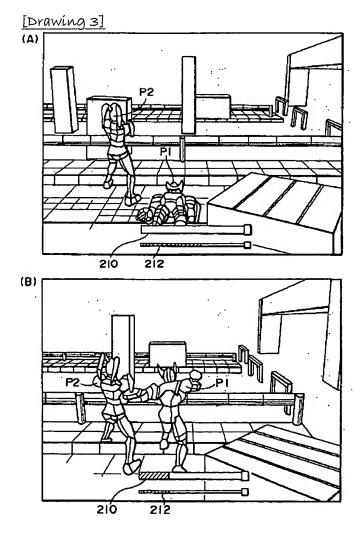
### [Drawing 5]



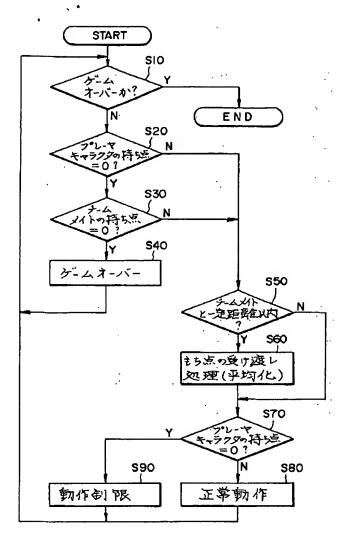


#### [Drawing 2]



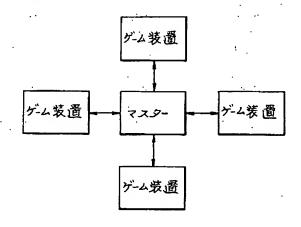


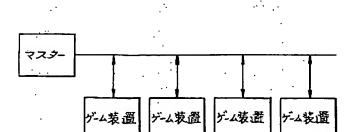
[Drawing 4]





(B)





### (19)日本国特許庁 (JP) (12) 公開特許公報(A)

(11)特許出願公開番号

### 特開平11-300046

(43)公開日 平成11年(1999)11月2日

(51) Int.Cl.6

A 6 3 F 9/22

識別記号

FΙ

A 6 3 F 9/22

Н

G

審査請求 未請求 請求項の数6 FD (全 9 頁)

(21)出願番号

特願平10-126823

(22)出願日

平成10年(1998) 4月21日

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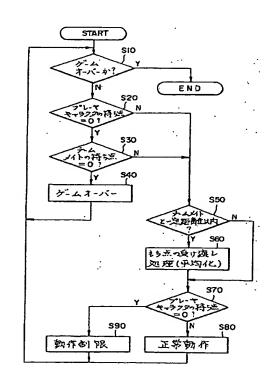
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#### (54) 【発明の名称】 ゲーム装置及び情報記憶媒体

#### (57)【要約】

【課題】 チーム戦特有の戦法や協力プレイ等を楽しむ ことができるゲーム装置及び情報記憶媒体を提供するこ

【解決手段】 他のゲーム装置から受信した通信データ に基づいて、複数のゲームキャラクタ間での持ち点の受 け渡し処理を行う。プレーヤキャラクタの持ち点が0に なった後も、チームメイトの持ち点が0でない場合に は、プレーヤキャラクタとチームメイトは持ち点の受け 渡し処理が可能である。複数のゲームキャラクタ間で持 ち点が平均化されるように、持ち点の受け渡じ処理を行 う。また、複数のゲームキャラクタが所定の範囲に近づ くと持ち点の受け渡し処理を行う。また、ゲームキャラ クタの前記持ち点が0である場合には、当該ゲームキャ ラクタのゲーム動作の制限を行う。



#### 【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 複数のゲームキャラクタがチームを作って他のチームと対戦するゲームを行うゲーム装置であって、

プレーヤの操作するゲームキャラクタのゲーム動作に基 づき前記ゲームキャラクタの持ち点を演算する持ち点演 算手段と、

複数のゲームキャラクタ間での持ち点の受け渡し処理を 行う持ち点受け渡し手段とを含み、

前記持ち点受け渡し手段が、

ゲームキャラクタの持ち点が無くなった後も、当該ゲームキャラクタと同じチームに属する他のゲームキャラクタが前記持ち点を有している場合には、当該ゲームキャラクタと他のゲームキャラクタの持ち点の受け渡し処理を行うことを特徴とするゲーム装置。

【請求項2】 請求項1において、

前記持ち点受け渡し手段が、

複数のゲームキャラクタ間で持ち点が平均化されるよう に、持ち点の受け渡し処理を行うことを特徴とするゲー ム装置。

【請求項3】 請求項1又は2において、

前記持ち点受け渡し手段が、

複数のゲームキャラクタが所定の範囲に近づくと持ち点 の受け渡し処理を行うことを特徴とするゲーム装置。

【請求項4】 請求項1乃至3のいずれかにおいて、 ゲームキャラクタの前記持ち点が無くなった場合には、 当該ゲームキャラクタのゲーム動作を制限する手段を含 むことを特徴とするゲーム装置。

【請求項5】 請求項1乃至4のいずれかにおいて、 通信回線を介して他のゲーム装置とゲーム情報を送受信 する通信手段を含み、前記持ち点受け渡し手段が、

前記通信手段が受信したゲーム情報に基づき、当該ゲームキャラクタと同じチームに属する他のゲームキャラクタの前記持ち点を判断することを特徴とするゲーム装置 【請求項6】 複数のゲームキャラクタがチームを作って他のチームと対戦するゲームを行うための情報記憶媒体であって、

プレーヤの操作するゲームキャラクタのゲーム動作に基づき前記ゲームキャラクタの持ち点を演算するための第一の情報と、

複数のゲームキャラクタ間での持ち点の受け渡し処理を 行うための第二の情報とを含み、

前記第二の情報が、

ゲームキャラクタの持ち点が無くなった後も、当該ゲームキャラクタと同じチームに属する他のゲームキャラクタが前記持ち点を有している場合には、当該ゲームキャラクタと他のゲームキャラクタの持ち点の受け渡し処理を行うための情報を含むことを特徴とする情報記憶媒

【発明の詳細な説明】

#### [0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、複数のゲームキャラクタがチームを作って他のチームと対戦するゲームを行うゲーム装置及び情報記憶媒体に関する。

#### [0002]

【背景技術及び発明が解決しようとする課題】従来より、複数のゲームキャラクタがチームを作って他のチームと対戦するゲームを行うゲーム装置が開発、実用化されている。例えば複数のゲーム装置を通信回線により接続し、各プレーヤが自己のゲームキャラクタである仮想プレーヤやレーシングカー等を操作して対戦ゲームを楽しむもの等がある。

【0003】係るゲーム装置では、通常ゲーム開始に際し各ゲームキャラクタに体力やエネルギーやライフや機数等の持ち点があたえられ、ゲームキャラクタがダメージを受ける度に持ち点が減少し、持ち点が無くなるとそのプレーヤはゲームオーバーになるように構成されている。

【0004】近年、複数のゲームキャラクタがチームを 組んで対戦するゲームにおいて、持ち点の受け渡しが可 能なゲーム装置が開発されており、かかるゲーム装置に おいては、プレーヤ間で協力プレイを楽しむことができ るようになる。

【0005】しかしながら、前記持ち点の受け渡しが行えるのは、自分のゲームキャラクタにわずかでも持ち点が残っている場合に限られ、自分のゲームキャラクタの持ち点が無くなってしまうと、その時点でライフや機数が1つ失われる(1ミス)か、ゲームオーバーになっていた。

【0006】このようにチーム戦とはいえ自分のゲームキャラクタの持ち点が無くなると、自分だけゲームオーバーになったり1ミスになったりするため、従来はチーム全体のために自分を犠牲にするという戦い方はできなかった。このため、たとえゲーム中に持ち点の受け渡しが可能であっても、各プレーヤはチーム全体のことよりも自己の持ち点をキープすることを優先し、協力プレーの範囲は限定されたものであった。従ってチーム戦ゲームであるにもかかわらず、プレーヤはチーム戦特有の戦法や協力プレイ等を今一つ楽しむことができず、プレーヤ間に一体感が生まれにくいという問題点があった。

【0007】本発明は、以上のような課題に鑑みてなされたものであり、その目的とするところは、チーム戦特有の戦法や協力プレイ等を楽しむことができるゲーム装置及び情報記憶媒体を提供することにある。

#### [0008]

【課題を解決するための手段】本発明は、複数のゲーム キャラクタがチームを作って他のチームと対戦するゲームを行うゲーム装置であって、プレーヤの操作するゲームキャラクタのゲーム動作に基づき前記ゲームキャラクタの持ち点を演算する持ち点演算手段と、複数のゲーム キャラクタ間での持ち点の受け渡し処理を行う持ち点受け渡し手段とを含み、前記持ち点受け渡し手段が、ゲームキャラクタの持ち点が無くなった後も、当該ゲームキャラクタと同じチームに属する他のゲームキャラクタが前記持ち点を有している場合には、当該ゲームキャラクタと他のゲームキャラクタの持ち点の受け渡し処理を行うことを特徴とする。

【0009】ここにおいてゲームキャラクタとは例えばプレーヤ等が操作する人物キャラクタでも良いし、プレーヤ等が操作するレーシングカーや戦車等も含む。

【0010】また持ち点とは、ゲーム開始に際し各ゲームキャラクタに与えられ、ゲームキャラクタがダメージを受ける度に減少し、一般にその値が無くなるとそのプレーヤはゲームオーバーになるような性質を有するゲーム上の値を意味する。例えば体力やエネルギーやライフや機数等が持ち点に含まれる。

【0011】また持ち点が無くなるとは、通常は持ち点が0になる場合をいうが例えば持ち点が所定値になるとゲームオーバーになるような性質を有するゲーム上の値である場合には、持ち点が所定値になる場合が持ち点が無くなった場合に相当する。

【0012】なお、持ち点が所定値になるとゲームオーバーになるような性質を有するゲーム上の値である場合には、前記持ち点受け渡し手段が、ゲームキャラクタの持ち点が所定値になった後も、当該ゲームキャラクタと同じチームに属する他のゲームキャラクタの前記持ち点が所定値でない場合には、当該ゲームキャラクタと他のゲームキャラクタの持ち点の受け渡し処理を行うことが好ましい。

【0013】また本発明のゲーム装置は、複数のゲーム装置を通信回線等で接続することによりマルチプレーヤゲームが可能に形成されたゲーム装置でも良いし、1台のゲーム装置でマルチプレーヤゲームが可能に形成されているゲーム装置でもよい。また、シングルプレーヤゲームでコンピュータの操作するゲームキャラクタと対戦を行う場合も含む。従って、同じチームに属する他のゲームキャラクタ(以下チームメイトという)は、他のプレーヤが操作するゲームキャラクタでも良いし、コンピュータが操作するゲームキャラクタでもよい。

【0014】通常のこの種のゲーム装置は、プレーヤのゲームキャラクタの持ち点が無くなった時点で当該プレーヤのみゲームオーバーになる。しかし本発明によれば、ゲームキャラクタの持ち点がなくなった後も、チームメイトが持ち点を有していれば、当該ゲームキャラクタは前記チームメイトから持ち点を受領することができる。

【0015】このように自己のゲームキャラクタの持ち点がなくなってもゲームオーバーとならないため、プレーヤはチーム全体のために自分を犠牲にするという戦い方が可能となる。従ってチーム戦特有の戦法や協力プレ

イ等を楽しむことができるゲーム装置を提供することが できる。さらに、チームを組んでプレイするプレーヤの 一体感をより高め、プレーヤのゲームへの没入度、熱中 度を高めることが可能になる。

【0016】また本発明は、前記持ち点受け渡し手段が、複数のゲームキャラクタ間で持ち点が平均化されるように、持ち点の受け渡し処理を行うことを特徴とする。

【0017】このようにすることで、簡単且つプレーヤ にわかり易い形式で持ち点の受け渡しを実現することが できる。

【0018】また本発明は、前記持ち点受け渡し手段が、複数のゲームキャラクタが所定の範囲に近づくと持ち点の受け渡し処理を行うことを特徴とする。

【0019】このようにすることで、プレーヤは自己の ゲームキャラクタをチームメイトに近づけるという簡単 なルールで持ち点の受け渡し行うことができる。このた めゲームに不慣れな者にもわかりやすく、初心者でも楽 しめるゲーム装置を提供することができる。

【0020】また本発明は、ゲームキャラクタの前記持ち点がなくなった場合には、当該ゲームキャラクタのゲーム動作を制限する手段を含むことを特徴とする。

【0021】ここにおいてゲーム動作を制限するとは、例えば攻撃不可能な状態におくとか、ゲームキャラクタがスローな動きしかできない状態にするとか、自由に動き回れない状態にするような場合を含む。

【0022】このようにすることで、持ち点がなくなったプレーヤにペナルティを課すことができる。

【0023】また本発明は、通信回線を介して他のゲーム装置とゲーム情報を送受信する通信手段を含み、前記持ち点受け渡し手段が、前記通信手段が受信したゲーム情報に基づき、当該ゲームキャラクタと同じチームに属する他のゲームキャラクタの前記持ち点を判断することを特徴とする。

【0024】本発明によれば、各ゲーム装置は他のゲーム装置のゲーム情報を通信データによりリアルタイムに取得することができる。よって、複数のゲーム装置を接続して行うマルチプレーヤゲームにおいても、通信手段を介して他のゲームキャラクタとの間でリアルタイムにデータの受け渡しを行うことができる。

【0025】なお、通信回線を介して接続された各ゲーム装置が個別に持ち点受け渡し手段を有し、個別に持ち点の受け渡しの処理を行うような構成でもよい。また、例えばいずれかのゲーム装置がマスター機となり、当該ゲーム装置が持ち点受け渡し手段を有し、他のゲーム装置はマスター機から受け取った持ち点に基づき、ゲームキャラクタの持ち点を更新する構成でもよい。

【0026】また本発明は、複数のゲームキャラクタが チームを作って他のチームと対戦するゲームを行うため の情報記憶媒体であって、プレーヤの操作するゲームキ ャラクタのゲーム動作に基づき前記ゲームキャラクタの 持ち点を演算するための第一の情報と、複数のゲームキャラクタ間での持ち点の受け渡し処理を行うための第二 の情報とを含み、前記第二の情報が、ゲームキャラクタ の持ち点が無くなった後も、当該ゲームキャラクタと同 じチームに属する他のゲームキャラクタが前記持ち点を 有している場合には、当該ゲームキャラクタと他のゲームキャラクタの持ち点の受け渡し処理を行うことを特徴 とする。

#### [0027]

【発明の実施の形態】以下、本発明の好適な実施形態について図面を用いて説明する。なお以下では、複数のゲームキャラクタがチームを作って他のチームと対戦を行うゲームを例にとり説明するが、チームを組んで対戦を行うタイプのゲームであればこれに限られるものではない。

【 0 0 2 8 】 1. ゲーム装置間の接続 図 1 にゲーム装置間の接続の一例を示す。

【0029】本実施形態では、複数の独立したゲーム装置10-1、10-2、10-3、10-4、10-5、10-6が例えばループ状に接続されている。そしてゲーム装置10-1~10-6の各々は、伝送ライン12を介し、他のゲーム装置との間でデータの送受信を行う。本実施形態では、データは、伝送ライン12を時計周りの方向に回るように伝送される。

【0030】なおゲーム装置10-1~10-6は、各々、独立に、シングルプレーヤ型ゲームをプレイできるように構成されている。

【0031】2. ゲーム装置の構成

図2に、ゲーム装置の機能ブロック図の一例を示す。 【0032】操作部120は、プレーヤが操作データを 入力するためのものであり、その機能は、例えばレバ ー、ボタン、銃、ステアリング、アクセル、ブレーキな どのハードウェアにより実現できる。

【0033】情報記憶媒体130は、プログラムやデータなどの情報を格納するものであり、その機能は、例えばROM、CDROM、ハードディスク、ゲームカセット、ICカード、MO、FD、DVDなどのハードウェアにより実現できる。この情報記憶媒体130に、本実施形態を実現するための種々の情報(データの送受信を行うための情報、持ち点の演算を行うための情報、持ち点の受け渡しを行うための情報、ゲームキャラクタの動作を制限するための情報等)が格納されることになる。なお、情報記憶媒体130に格納される情報は、本実施形態の処理を行うためのプログラムコード、画像情報、音情報、表示物の形状情報、テーブルデータ、リストデータ、プレーヤ情報等の少なくとも1つを含むものである。

【0034】処理部140は、ゲーム装置全体の制御、 ゲーム装置内の各ブロックへの命令の指示、ゲーム演算 などの各種の処理を行うものであり、その機能はCPU (CISC型、RISC型)、ASIC (ゲートアレイ等)などのハードウェアにより実現できる。ここで処理部140は、操作部120からI/Oポート124を介して入力されるプレーヤの操作データや、情報記憶媒体130からのプログラム、データ等に基づいて動作する。また処理部140は、ワークメモリ158をワーク領域として各種の処理を行う。

【0035】処理部140は、送受信処理部142、持ち点演算部143、持ち点受け渡し部144、動作制限部145を含む。

【0036】ここで、送受信処理部142は、他のゲーム装置とデータの送受信を行うための処理を行う。例えばバッファメモリ180に送信データを書き込んだり、バッファメモリ180から受信データを読み出したり、通信制御部170に対して送受信のための種々の指示を出したりする等の処理を行う。

【0037】また持ち点演算部143は、プレーヤの入力に基づき動作するゲームキャラクタの持ち点の演算を行う。

【0038】また持ち点受け渡し部144は、複数のゲームキャラクタ間での持ち点の受け渡し処理を行う。この場合、持ち点の受領は他のゲーム装置から受信したデータに含まれる他のゲームキャラクタ持ち点に基づいて行われる。

【0039】動作制限部145は、ゲームキャラクタの前記持ち点が0である場合には、当該ゲームキャラクタのゲーム動作を制限するための処理を行う。

【0040】ワークメモリ158は、処理部140、画像生成部160、音生成部164、通信制御部170などの作業領域となるもので、その機能はRAMなどのハードウェアにより実現できる。

【0041】画像生成部160は、処理部140からの 指示等にしたがって、各種の画像を生成し表示部162 に出力するものであり、その機能は、画像生成用ASI C、CPU、DSPなどのハードウェアや所与のプログ ラム(画像生成プログラム)により実現できる。

【0042】音生成部164は、処理部140からの指示等にしたがって、各種の音を生成し音出力部166に出力するものであり、その機能は、音生成用ASIC、CPU、DSPなどのハードウェアや所与のプログラム(音生成プログラム)により実現できる。

【0043】通信制御部170は、通信のための各種の制御を行うものであり、その機能は、通信用ASIC、CPUなどのハードウェアや所与のプログラム(通信プログラム)により実現できる。

・【0044】バッファメモリ180は、受信データや送信データを一時的に記憶するものであり、その機能はRAMなどのハードウェアにより実現できる。ここでバッファメモリ180は、送信専用エリア182と送受信エ

リア184を有する。

【0045】前段のゲーム装置からの受信データは、I / 〇ポート172、通信制御部170を介して、送受信 エリア184に書き込まれる。そしてこの受信データが 当該ゲーム装置に必要ないものである場合には、送受信 エリア182からそのまま通信制御部170、I / 〇ポート172を介して後段のゲーム装置に送信される。一方、必要なものである場合には、この受信データは処理 部140により読み出され、ワークメモリ158に書き 込まれる。そして処理部140等により所与の処理が施された後、送信データとして送信専用エリア182に書き込まれ、通信制御部170、I / 〇ポート172を介して後段のゲーム装置に送信される。

#### 【0046】3. 本実施形態の特徴

さて本実施形態の第1の特徴は、プレーヤのゲームキャラクタ(以下プレーヤキャラクタという)の持ち点が0になった後も、同じチームに属する他のゲームキャラクタの前記持ち点が0でいない場合には、プレーヤキャラクタは他のゲームキャラクタと持ち点の受け渡しができる点にある。

【0047】通常のこの種のゲーム装置は、プレーヤキャラクタの持ち点が0になった時点で当該プレーヤのみゲームオーバーになる。しかし本発明によれば、プレーヤキャラクタの持ち点が0になった後も、チームメイトが持ち点を有していれば、プレーヤキャラクタは前記チームメイトから持ち点を受領することができる。

【0048】従って、チーム全体のために自分を犠牲に するという戦い方が可能となり、チーム戦特有の戦法や 協力プレイ等を楽しむことができるゲーム装置を提供す ることができる。

【0049】このため、対戦プレイや共同プレイを行う プレーヤ間の一体感を生むことが可能になる。この結 果、プレーヤのゲームへの没入度、熱中度を高めること が可能になる。

【0050】本実施形態の第2の特徴は、複数のゲーム キャラクタ間で持ち点が平均化されるように、持ち点の 受け渡しが行われる点にある。

【0051】図3(A)(B)は、本実施の形態のゲーム画面を表した図である。図3(A)は持ち点の受け渡し前の画面を表しており、図3(B)は、持ち点の受け渡し後の画面である。

【0052】図3(A)において、210は当該ゲーム 装置のプレーヤのゲームキャラクタP1の持ち点を示しており、212はP1のチームメイトであるゲームキャラクタP2の持ち点を示している。例えば持ち点の受け 渡し前は、ゲームキャラクタP1の持ち点210が0であり、ゲームキャラクタP2の持ち点212が10であるとすると、持ち点の受け渡し後は、ゲームキャラクタ P1とゲームキャラクタP2の持ち点は平均化されて、それぞれ5となる。

【0053】このようにすることで、簡単且つプレーヤ にわかり易い形式で持ち点の受け渡しを実現することが できる。

【0054】また、本実施の形態の第3の特徴は、複数のゲームキャラクタが図3(A)に示すように所定の範囲に近づくと持ち点の受け渡し処理を行う点にある。

【0055】本実施の形態では持ち点演算部143はプレーヤキャラクタとチームメイトの位置を取得して、各ゲームキャラクタ間の距離を求める。そして前記距離が所定範囲内であれば、持ち点の受け渡し処理を行う。

【0056】このようにすることで、プレーヤはプレーヤキャラクタをチームメイトに近づけるという簡単なルールで持ち点の受け渡しを行うことができる。このためゲームに不慣れな者にもわかりやすく、初心者から上級者まで楽しめるゲーム装置を提供することができる。

【0057】また本実施の形態の第4の特徴は、前記動作制限部145がゲームキャラクタの前記持ち点が0である場合には、当該ゲームキャラクタのゲーム動作を制限する点にある。

【0058】本実施の形態では、図3(A)に示すように、持ち点が0のゲームキャラクタP1は地面を転がるような移動しかできず、敵を攻撃することもできない状態にある。

【0059】このようにすることで、持ち点が0になったプレーヤにペナルティを課すことができる。しかしプレーヤキャラクタが地面を転がってチームメイトに近づくことで、又はチームメイトがプレーヤキャラクタに近づくことでチームメイトから持ち点を受領することができ、通常の動作が可能な状態に復活することができる。【0060】4. 本実施形態の動作

次に本実施形態の動作の詳細例について図4のフローチャートを用いて説明する。

【0061】本フローチャートは、各インター毎の処理を表している。なお、本フローチャートはデータの送受信を行う部分は明示されていないが、通信制御部170が I/Oボート172を介して他のゲーム装置から各ゲームキャラクタの位置座標及び持ち点を各インター毎に受信しているものとする。

【0062】本実施の形態では、ゲームオーバーになるまで(ステップS10)、ステップS20からステップS90までの処理を繰り返す。

【0063】まずステップS20からS40でゲームオーバーか否かの検出を行う。即ち、プレーヤキャラクタの持ち点が0であるかどうかの検出を行う(ステップS20)。持ち点が0でなければゲームオーバーにならず、ステップS50からステップS90の処理を行う。【0064】持ち点が0であれば、他のゲーム装置から受信したデータに基づきチームメイトの持ち点が0であるかどうかの検出を行う(ステップS30)。チームメイトの持ち点が0であった場合には、そこでゲームオー

バーとなる。なお、チームメートが複数いる場合には、 一人でも持ち点が0でない場合にはゲームオーバーとな らず、全てのチームメイトの持ち点が0になった時点 で、当該チーム全員がゲームオーバーとなる。

【0065】次にステップS50、S60で持ち点の受け渡しのための処理を行う。まず他のゲーム装置から受信したデータに基づきチームメイトの位置を取得し、プレーヤキャラクタとの距離を演算する。そしてチームメイトとの距離が一定距離以内である場合には、持ち点の受け渡し処理を行う(ステップS50、S60)。

【0066】具体的には、他のゲーム装置から受信したデータに基づきチームメイトの持ち点を取得し、プレーヤキャラクタの持ち点との平均化を行う。そして平均化した値でプレーヤキャラクタの値を更新する。

【0067】次にステップS70~S90でプレーヤキャラクタの動作制限のための処理を行う。プレーヤキャラクタの持ち点が0であれば当該プレーヤキャラクタの動作制限を行い(ステップS70、S90)、プレーヤキャラクタの持ち点が0でなければ当該プレーヤキャラクタは正常動作を行う(ステップS70、S80)。

【0068】具体的には、ゲームキャラクタに対応して動作制限を行うか否かを表す動作制限フラグを設け、動作制限を行う場合には当該ゲームキャラクタの動作制限フラグをオンにし、正常動作を行う場合には当該ゲームキャラクタの動作制限フラグをオフにする。そして動作を制御するプログラム側でこの動作制限フラグに基づきゲームキャラクタの動作を制御するような構成が考えられる。

【0069】なお本発明は、上記実施形態で説明したものに限らず、種々の変形実施が可能である。

【0070】本実施の形態では持ち点が無くなった場合を持ち点が0になった場合を例にとり説明したがこれに限られない。例えば、持ち点が所定値になるとゲームオーバーになるような性質を有するゲーム上の値である場合には、持ち点が無くなった場合とは持ち点が所定値になる場合でもよい。

【0071】本実施の形態では各プレーヤ間で持ち点が 平均化するように受け渡しが行われる場合を例にとり説 明したがこれに限られない。例えば、受け渡しの量を操 作入力等により自由に決定できるようにしてもよい。ま たプレーヤ間で持ち点が入れ替わるような受け渡しをお こなってもよい。

【0072】また受け渡し前の持ち点の合計と受け渡し後の持ち点の合計が等しくならなくても良い。即ち、持ち点の受け渡しを行うことによってチームの持ち点の合計が増加したり減少したりする場合でもよい。

【0073】また、本実施の形態では各プレーヤが所定の範囲に近づくことにより持ち点の受け渡し処理が行われる場合を例にとり説明したがこれに限られない。例えば特定のアイテムを取得したり、特定の場所に到達する

ことにより、チームメイトと持ち点の受け渡しができる ような場合でもよい。

【0074】また、所定時間経過することによりゲーム キャラクタ間で自動的に持ち点の受け渡しが行われるよ うな場合でもよい。

【0075】また、本実施の形態では2体のゲームキャラクタ間で持ち点の受け渡しが行われる場合を例にとり説明したがこれに限られない。例えば3体以上のゲームキャラクタ間で持ち点の受け渡しが行われる場合でもよい。

【0076】また、本実施の形態では人体モデルのゲームキャラクタを例にとり説明したがこれに限られない。例えばチームを組んでレーシングゲームを行う場合はレーシングカー等がゲームキャラクタになってもよい。

【0077】また、ゲームに登場する全ゲームキャラクタをプレーヤが操作していることも要しない。例えば2対2で対戦可能なマルチプレーヤゲームにおいて参加プレーヤが3人以下の場合は、対応するプレーヤのいないゲームキャラクタはコンピュータが操作することになる。即ち図5(A)に示すように、P1、P2、P3はプレーヤによって操作されるゲームキャラクタであり、C1はコンピュータが操作するゲームキャラクタになる。この場合P1とC1、P2とP3がチームとなって対戦を行うとすると、P1のチームメイトはコンピュータが操作するゲームキャラクタC1となるが、このような場合でもよい。

【0078】さらには、図5(B)に示すように、前記 2対2で対戦可能なマルチプレーヤゲームにプレーヤが 一人しか参加していない場合、即ちシングルプレーヤゲームを行っている場合でもよい。即ち図5(B)において、C1、C2、C3はコンピュータが操作するゲーム キャラクタであり、P1のみがプレーヤが操作するゲームキャラクタであるような場合でもよい。

【0079】また本実施の形態では、ゲームシステムを構成する各ゲーム装置が個別に持ち点の受け渡し処理を行っている場合を例にとり説明したが、これに限られない。例えば、最初にいずれかのゲーム装置がマスター機となり、当該マスター機が持ち点の受け渡し処理を行いその結果を他のゲーム装置に指示し、他のゲーム装置はマスター機の指示に従って各ゲームキャラクタの持ち点の更新を行うような構成でもよい。

【0080】例えば本発明におけるゲーム装置の接続形態は図1に示すリング型に限られるものではない。例えば図6(A)に示すようなスター型や図6(B)に示すようなバス型等の場合にも本発明は適用可能である。データの送受信、持ち点の受け渡し処理のための情報等を含む情報記憶媒体を、例えばマスター(ホスト)に持たせるようにしてもよい。

【0081】また本発明のゲーム装置の構成も図2に示すものに限らず種々の変形実施が可能である。

【0082】また本発明は、複数のゲームキャラクタが チームを作って対戦を行うゲームに適用可能であり、例 えばシューティングゲームやレーシングゲーム、スポー ツゲーム等に適用できる。

【0083】また本発明は、家庭用ゲーム装置、業務用のゲーム装置、シミュレータ、多数のプレーヤが参加する大型アトラクション装置、パーソナルコンピュータ、マルチメディア端末、ゲーム画像を生成するシステム基板等の種々のゲーム装置に適用できる。

#### [0084]

#### 【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本実施形態のゲーム装置の接続形態の一例を示す図である。

【図2】本実施形態のゲーム装置の機能ブロック図の一例である。

【図3】図3(A)(B)は、本実施の形態のゲーム画面を表した図である。

【図4】本実施形態の詳細な処理例について説明するためのフローチャートである。

【図5】図5(A)(B)は、本実施の形態のチームの 形態を説明するための図である。

【図6】図6(A)、(B)は、ゲーム装置の種々の接

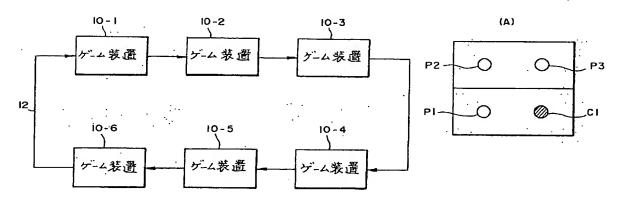
続形態の例を示す図である。

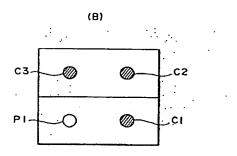
#### 【符号の説明】

- 10-1~10-6 ゲーム装置
- 12 伝送ライン
- 120 操作部
- 124 I/Oポート
- 130 情報記憶媒体
- 140 処理部
- 142 送受信処理部
- 143 持ち点演算部
- 144 持ち点受け渡し部
- 145 動作制限部
- 158 ワークメモリ
- 160 画像生成部
- 162 表示部
- 164 音生成部
- 166 音出力部
- 170 通信制御部
- 172 I/Oポート
- 180 バッファメモリ
- 182 送信専用エリア
- 184 送受信エリア

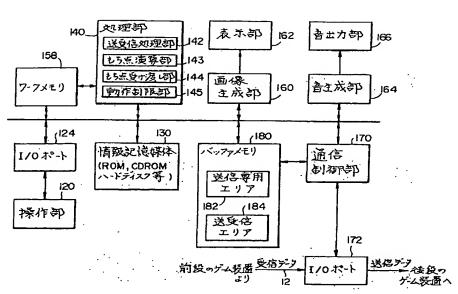
【図1】

【図5】



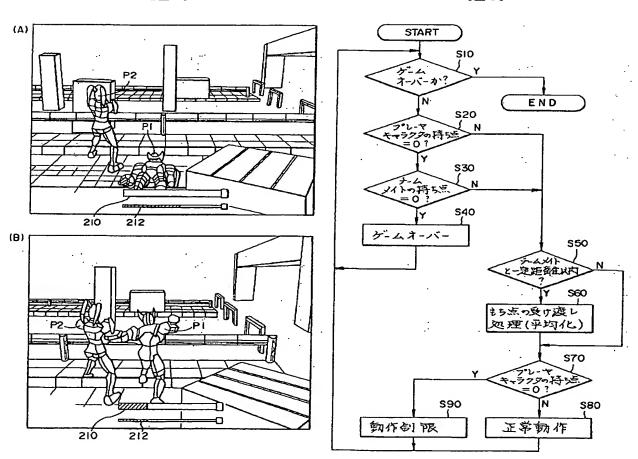






#### 【図3】

#### 【図4】



【図6】

